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Farm Broadcasters Letter



CURRENT SERVICE RECORDS

Letter No. 2271

July 17, 1986

U.S. CROP PROD. HIGHLIGHTS

The following are the highlights of the U.S. Crop Production report of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Winter wheat production is forecast at 1 billion, 550 million bushels, down 15 pct. from 1985, and the lowest level in 8 years. Corn planted for all purposes is estimated at 76½ million acres, down 8 pct. from last year. Growers expect to harvest 69½ million acres for grain, down 8 pct. from last year. This is 91 pct. of the planted acres. Soybean area planted is expected to total nearly 62 million acres, down 2 pct. from 1985.

USSR 1986 CROP DOWN

The 1986 USSR grain crop is estimated at 180 million metric tons, down 5 million from the June estimate, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Hot dry weather in much of the European USSR throughout June caused yield reductions for barley, winter wheat and corn. Winter wheat is now estimated at 76 million tons, and coarse grains at 91 million tons.

USSR IMPORT ESTIMATE

The estimate of USSR grain imports for the 1986/87 marketing year was increased by 2 million tons to 34 million, including 18 million wheat, 15 million coarse grains and one million miscellaneous grains, rice and pulses, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The estimate of coarse grain imports of 15 million tons is up from the year earlier level, but still well below the record 1984/85 total.

SO. AFRICA BUYS US WHEAT

South Africa's recent purchase of 66,000 tons of U.S. wheat should mean greater than expected U.S. wheat exports to that country during 1986/87, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The sale brings South African purchases of U.S. wheat since May to 156,000 tons, which is substantially above last year's total exports of about 27,000 tons.

PHILIPPINES BUY US WHEAT

The Philippines are to purchase U.S. wheat under Public Law 480, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. On July 8, the Philippines awarded contracts to buy 66,000 metric tons of Western White wheat, and 223,000 metric tons of Northern Spring/Dark Northern Spring wheat for delivery to U.S. ports from July 15 through Sept. 30.

FmHA HOUSING
FUNDS
RESTORED

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is authorized to reinstate \$700 million in previously deferred housing loan funds, according to Vance Clark, Admin. of the FmHA. The funds will be available to low-income families in rural areas for single family or multi-family housing units. The funds will be available through Sept. 30, 1986. As of mid-June, FmHA had made loans of \$1 billion, 17 million for housing--\$666 million for single family housing and \$351 million for apartments for this fiscal year. The agency's lending for housing totals \$1 billion, 35 million in FY 1986.

USSR GRAIN
PURCHASES

The grain buying activity of the USSR has been slow to develop for the 1986/87 marketing year, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Contributing to the slow buying may be USSR expectations of lower prices as the 1986 world grain harvest accelerates and reduced USSR foreign exchange earnings. In recent years, shipments for this period have averaged nearly 4 million tons. As August marks the start of a new 5-year grain agreement between Canada and the USSR, it is quite likely that some sales have already been negotiated.

WORLD
WHEAT
PRODUCTION

The world wheat production for 1986/87 is estimated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture at 504 million tons, up less than 1 pct. from the 1985/86 harvest. United States production is estimated at nearly 59 million tons, down 11 pct. from last year. USSR wheat production is estimated at 76 million tons, down 8 pct. from the 1985 harvest. Canada wheat production is estimated at 27 million tons, up 13 pct. from last year's harvest. East Europe wheat production is estimated at 39 million tons, up 4 pct. from the 1985 harvest. European Community wheat production is estimated at nearly 73 million tons, up 2 pct. from the 1985 harvest.

WORLD
COARSE
GRAIN PROD.

The world coarse grains production for 1986/87 is estimated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture at nearly 819 million tons, up 3.4 million or less than 1 pct. from last month, but down 3 pct. from the record 1985/86 crop. Coarse grain production is estimated as follows: United States, 245 million tons, down 11 pct. from last year. USSR, 91 million tons, down 3 pct. from 1985 harvest. European Community, 82 million tons, down 7 pct. from last year. China, 93½ million tons of coarse grain, 11 pct. above last year. East Europe, nearly 70 million tons, up 1 pct. from the 1985 crop. Canada, 23½ million tons, down 5 pct. from last year's crop.

WORLD
OILSEEDS
PROD.

The world production of oilseeds for 1986/87 is estimated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture at a record 196½ million tons, up ½ million or less than 1 pct. from last month and up 1 pct. from last year's record. U.S. production is estimated at just over 58½ million tons, down 400 thousand or less than 1 pct. from last month and down 10 pct. from last year. Foreign production is estimated at a record 138 million tons, up 900 thousand or less than 1 pct. from last month and up 7 pct. from last year.

FROM OUR
TELEVISION
SERVICE

U.S. WEATHER AND CROP UPDATE...USDA chief meteorologist Dr. Norton Strommen talks about current weather conditions across the country. DeBoria Janifer interviews. (231)

USSR GRAIN SITUATION AND OUTLOOK...USDA Soviet analyst Keith Severin talks about current estimates for the 1986 Soviet grain crops and factors that are affecting it, including dry weather. DeBoria Janifer interviews. (232)

INTENSIVE TECHNOLOGY IN USSR...A new system of "Intensive Technology" for producing winter wheat is being adopted by the Soviet Union. USDA Soviet analyst Keith Severin describes this system and how successful it has been so far. DeBoria Janifer interviews. (233)

TOP EXPORT NATIONS...Brazil, Canada and Argentina moved up, several European nations lost ground, and the U.S. held onto its wide first-place lead with an 18 percent share of the total value of world agricultural exports. USDA economist Arthur Mackie takes a look at this recent report on top exporting nations. DeBoria Janifer interviews. (234)

FEED SAMPLING ON LIVESTOCK FARMS...A simple and cheap feed sampling program on livestock farms could be a good insurance policy against problems that often develop due to feed contamination. Val Beasley with the University of Illinois focuses on this problem. Gary Beaumont interviews. (235)



FROM OUR RADIO
SERVICE

AGRICULTURE USA #1520...(Weekly 13½ min documentary) There's new varieties of wheat on the marketplace that are causing quite a stir. On this edition Brenda Curtis talks to leaders in the wheat industry as well as the Administrator of the Federal Grain Inspection Service, Kenneth Gilles, about the new nontraditional wheat and the controversy it's causing in the industry.

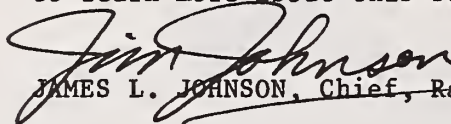
AGRITAPE/FARM PROGRAM REPORT #1509...(Weekly reel of news features) USDA news highlights; Lower rates on honey loan repayments; The effects of the Southeast drought; Lightning and its dangers; Classifying nontraditional wheat.

CONSUMER TIME #1002...(Weekly reel of news features) Sake in a barrel; IRA's a popular way to save; Seaweed; Air pollution and food; Finding the right mortgage lender.

USDA RADIO NEWS SERVICE...Fri, July 25, Cattle on feed; Tues, July 29, Weekly weather and crop summary; Thurs, July 31, Ag prices. Dial the USDA National News Line 202-488-8358 or 8359. All material changed at 5 p.m. ET each working day.

OFF MIKE

We're imminently on our way to Fort Worth and the Summer NAFB meeting. By the looks of the advance program, it promises to be an excellent meeting. We're hoping to see you there ... Mike Ramsey (WRFD, Columbus, Ohio) was in town on a combined vacation/working visit. We arranged an interview with Sec'y of Agriculture Richard Lyng for him. Prior to the interview he spent time talking either our Gary Crawford. Unfortunately we were out of the office that day, so we didn't get the chance to compare notes or visit about all the tourist attractions they (his wife was with him) got to and didn't get to see ... Will McCracken has decided to hang up his hat at Deere & Co. after 20 years and "retire" to an ag communications consultancy, his own ... Orion Samuelson (WGN, Chicago, Ill.) is back from his visit to the Royal Agriculture Show in England to pick up on a schedule of some rather extensive traveling in country to state and county affairs ... Earlier in this column we introduced you to our summer intern Sara Edwards. Sara had some scalp surgery last week and came back to work this week. Before surgery she had a spot that wouldn't grow hair. After surgery, the spot is gone and hair-growing scalp was stretched over the spot to replace it. In some circles, that's called the silver lining ... We've talked about the advantages of electronic mail before, and we're about to do it again. If you have it, you know already how much information can be tapped and the ease of sending and receiving messages with others on the same service. One big advantage we feel is USDA ONLINE, which provides very fast access to newly released crop reports, outlook and situation summaries, daily newswire summaries and national and regional press releases...plus the daily USDA Radio billboard of stories available on the line. If you want to learn more about this service, let us know.



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